

# LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## PEACOCK PAVILION BRIGHTENED WITH NEW PAINT AND GLASS

FOR THE SECOND TIME within a year, a member of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees has been instrumental in arranging for sizable donations from the business community. Last June new trustee William Peters initiated discussions with the Southern Cali-

fornia Paint and Coatings Association. That organization ultimately underwrote the design services of Foster Meagher during the repainting of the Queen Anne Cottage. When the California Arboretum Foundation decided next to refurbish the Peacock Pavilion, Thomas Fuelling, a trustee for nine years, helped convince a local glazier, a design company and a refrigeration

company to contribute materials and expertise to the project.

During the four days in January that the Peacock Pavilion was closed, painters applied light beige paint to the walls and rustic brown paint to the ceiling beams in the coffee shop and kitchen. Cannell and Chaffin specified these colors as a background for the prism of colors on the soffit that their designer suggested to draw attention to the service counter. Two weeks earlier, Arcadia Glass and Mirror replaced clear panes in the lower windows and doors with bronze-tone glass that will keep the interior cooler by reflecting the sun's rays.

Unseen improvements in the building include new heating and air conditioning systems donated in part by REESAC in Glendale. When the new concessionaires, California Industrial Vending, took over operation of the coffee shop in January, they expanded the menu and installed additional kitchen equipment.

Eventually, new flooring will be installed and the tables and chairs either replaced or refinished. All these improvements should make the coffee shop more inviting to visitors and more profitable for the Arboretum.



Workers apply a fresh coat of rustic brown paint to beams as part of the upgrading of the Peacock Pavilion coffee shop.

## JAMES BAUML APPOINTED NEW PLANT TAXONOMIST

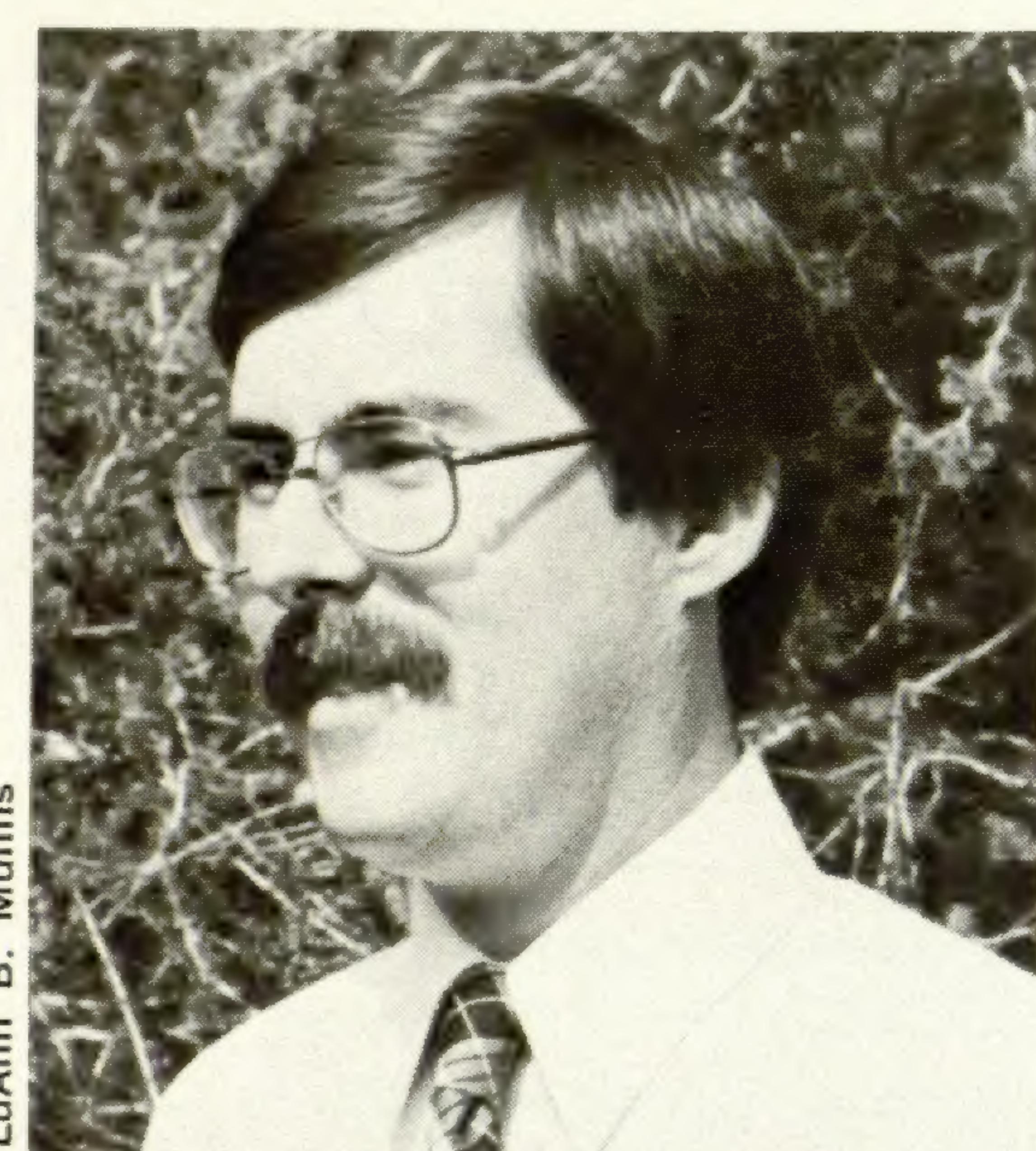
THE PLANT taxonomist at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum has traditionally played a vital role in the programs and services that have made the institution well-known in the community and around the world.

James Bauml, recently named Department taxonomist, appreciates the value of these projects and is enthusiastic about expanding two that directly benefit Southern Californians: the Arboretum plant collection program and the plant identification service.

As the plant collections expand, more plants can be evaluated to determine their adaptability in this area. "There is still a lot of potential for plant collections from such areas as South Africa, West Australia and other subtropical regions," he said. Shrubs like the mint bush (*Prostanthera*) from Australia and many members of the iris family indigenous to South Africa seem especially promising, he added, since they are pre-adapted to this climate and thrive without irrigation once they are established. New contacts he has made and seed lists from other gardens could provide plants that, after being started in the Arboretum nursery, could be grown in field trials here, he said.

The plant identification service could easily expand to fill all Mr. Bauml's time, so he limits the time spent on morphological detective hunts by concentrating on plants that he can quickly categorize by just looking at specimens the visitor supplied. People who bring in only a sprig from an unknown plant are asked to collect a more complete sample when the plant in question blooms.

The only instance when he will painstakingly track down the identity of a plant from a single leaf is when the inquiry comes from the



LuAnn B. Munns

James Bauml

Los Angeles County Poison Information Center. In keeping with Department policy, Mr. Bauml gives his immediate attention to these emergency questions because a physician or veterinarian is often waiting. Once Mr. Bauml identifies the plant and determines the toxic substances it may contain, an appropriate treatment can be prescribed in suspected poisoning cases.

Mr. Bauml also plans to continue his studies of poisonous and medicinal plants, a logical extension of the interest in ethnobotany of the Americas he developed while he lived in his native Texas. Ethnobotany, as the name suggests, is the study of uses native peoples found for plants.

During his many trips to the interior of Mexico, he has collected botanical specimens of everything from trees to weeds in various locations. The seeds and bulbs are used for research at the Arboretum or at Huntington Botanical Gardens where he was a botanist for the last three and one-half years. Cuttings of several ornamental plants and unusual herbs he collected are being propagated in the Arboretum greenhouses.

Mr. Bauml earned his bachelor of science degree at Texas A & M University and his master's at Cornell University. He lives in Pasadena

with his wife, Mitzi, and a new son, Jonathan, born soon after Mr. Bauml joined the staff here in December.

## PRESIDENT REAGAN PRAISES FRIENDS OF ROBINSON GARDENS

IN THE SHORT TIME the group has been in existence, The Friends of Virginia Robinson Gardens have earned the respect of many residents in the Los Angeles area. The first national recognition, however, came in the form of a letter from the White House signed by President Ronald Reagan. The text reads:

Nancy and I are delighted to extend best wishes to all who gather to celebrate the formation of The Friends of Robinson Gardens.

As the first residence in Beverly Hills, the Harry and Virginia Robinson Estate is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Its architecture and ambiance represent the lifestyle of its era, and the beautiful gardens reflect the Robinson Family's great love for horticulture.

Through the involvement of local citizens and local government, the gardens soon will be available for public tours. Already horticultural research is underway there under auspices of the Los Angeles County Arboretum Department.

The educational and fund-raising activities planned by The Friends of the Robinson Gardens are a vital dimension of this new program and a fine example of what can be accomplished through cooperation between the private and public sectors.

You have our congratulations for your hard work. Nancy and I both take great pride in wishing you every success.

## DR. KENNEDY'S WIDOW GIVES ANTIQUE BOOKS TO LIBRARY

ALTHOUGH George C. Kennedy earned his doctorate in geology and taught geophysics at UCLA, his friends knew him best as an avid orchidist. During expeditions he and his wife, Ruth, made to Mexico, Colombia and Malaysia, he photographed orchids and brought back rare specimens for the collection they maintained at their home. Any that duplicated species he already held were given to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, helping to build its collection into one of the largest assemblages of conspicuously flowered orchids in the world.

Dr. Kennedy also wrote many articles for *Orchid Digest*. As he

verified sources of plant names and habitats, he accumulated a comprehensive library of rare books on orchids. After his death, his widow chose to memorialize Dr. Kennedy and his long association with the Arboretum by donating three of these books to the California Arboretum Foundation. The books are worth more than \$2,500, according to J. A. Fowlie, M.D., who, as editor of *Orchid Digest*, is familiar with the antique book market.

Dr. Fowlie assesses as most valuable *Le Livre des Orchidees*, a book that illustrates early technical treatises on orchids with hand colored botanical plates and woodcut engravings. The rarity of the other two books also makes them notable additions to the Plant Science Library at the Arboretum.

Few botanical reference libraries hold copies of Jennings' *Orchids and How to Grow Them*, published in 1875. A number of species are depicted nowhere else but in the hand-colored plates that this book contains.

Rudolph Schlechter published his exhaustive study on eastern New Guinea species, *Die Orchidaceen von Deutsch Neu Guinea*, in 1911, and it is still used today as a standard reference work. This book is rare in research libraries because most copies were destroyed during the bombings of Berlin in World War II.

Mrs. Kennedy's generosity makes the works of these early authorities on orchids available to the taxonomists and researchers who want to locate the first descriptions of orchids as the discoverers originally published them.



A jumble of equipment and construction blocks the old arboretum exit as the area is transformed into a new gift shop. Building should be completed and the gift shop moved into the spacious quarters by early summer.

# Royalty visits the Arboretum



*Rain drenches ducks and visitors awaiting His Highness' arrival.*



*Prince Philip, husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, adjusts the earphones he will wear when he flies the 16-passenger helicopter.*



*The helicopter piloted by the prince lifts off after his brief visit to the Arboretum Feb. 28. (Photos by Jim Johnson)*

By Laurie Schenden

# Plant Science Library



**M**OVIE MAKERS, artists, landscape architects and professors would not seem to have much in common, but, in fact, they all could conceivably meet in the reading room of the Plant Science Library at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. People with these diverse interests and more have found the Arboretum reference library to be a mother lode of horticultural and botanical information.

At one time or another, movie researchers from MGM studios and Warner Research Library have called the library with questions like, "Where are there Japanese gardens in California?" when they need to simulate a particular area in a film. The answer to the question, "How many kinds of cacti grow in California?" may be needed to verify a line in a script.

When outdoor scenes for the television movie "The Letter" were filmed here last year, the historical section of the Arboretum looked like Singapore in 1939. Few viewers, however, were aware of the backstage search by librarian Joan DeFato that helped make the area into what seemed to be an authentic British colonial garden. Warner researchers used information from a book she found that detailed the



Librarian Joan DeFato (right) helps researchers from many fields use the resources at the Plant Science Library.

Jim Johnson

vegetables and flowers growing in Singapore in 1939.

"Unfortunately, they're not all that easy," Ms. DeFato said. "But the majority of questions I get I can answer."

As one of the most complete horticultural and botanical reference libraries in the area, the Plant Science Library has some information on just about every recognized plant family. Ms. DeFato, librarian here since 1973, is herself a walking index as she moves among the stacks filled with 200 periodicals and more than 25,000 books and pamphlets. Even when vague questions send her deep into the maze of library shelves, she usually emerges with several references or suggestions on where to get more information.

Routine questions come from home gardeners looking for plant descriptions and editors verifying plant name spellings. Court reporters often record the phonetic sounds

of plant names but call the library for the correct spellings when they begin transcribing their notes.

Some people have questions and are unsure of whom to ask, like the caller who wanted the name of a translucent South American frog he could only describe or another who was curious about the life span of the monarch butterfly. The Metropolitan Cooperative Library System often uses the specialized holdings of the Arboretum library to answer plant-related questions from members.

The Poison Information Center has called for the botanical name of a plant when the patient only knew the common name. The Los Angeles County Forestry Department called for information on eucalyptus trees adaptable to the high desert in California, and a researcher came to find out what plants would have been grown in California during the Mexican period.

Few public libraries have that information, but usually at least two or three of the carefully selected horticultural and botanical volumes in the Plant Science Library will have information on a plant, no matter how esoteric. Because it is compact, users of the Arboretum's library receive individual assistance.

"We don't have all the indexes and computers the public libraries and universities have," said Ms. DeFato, "But you get to know what you have and how to find it. Readers are somewhat on their own at a university library; libraries there don't have as much time for personal care."

Ms. DeFato has also on occasion been a catalyst for new projects in the minds of library users. She referred a woman from UCLA researching a horticultural project at the Plant Science Library to a lecturer at Berkeley who was doing similar work. They found their research complementary, so they began collaborating on a new project.

About one-third of the library users are on the Arboretum staff. For instance, employees in the Education Division use the library references for checking facts and descriptions of unfamiliar plants that the Research Department is planning to introduce to the area. Models for the illustrations on posters, displays and brochures done by the Department are also found in the library, and much of the information used in *Garden* magazine is researched here. Several freelance writers also use the library regularly to gather background information about the uses and correct names of plants. An author who already knows a lot about a particular plant will often search out peripheral facts or folklore upon which to base anecdotes in a story.

The Arboretum taxonomist, James Baum, and herbarium curator, Suzanne Granger, often use the li-



LuAnn B. Munns

Periodicals now overflowing the library will soon fill the shelves around Joan DeFato in the converted Herbarium.

brary sources to research exotic plants and locate the original published description of plants growing on the Arboretum grounds.

Earl Ross, the Arboretum orchidist, reads about places around the world that he plans to explore for new orchids and tropical plants. Then, when he ventures off to remote places like Mt. Kinabalu in the Malaysian state of Sabah, he already knows what plants to look for and what to expect.

The staff and volunteers who answer visitors' questions about where to plant and how to care for new plants often come to the library. The approximately 250 professionals, staff, students and visitors who use the library each month find it a valuable source of botanical and horticultural information. Part of the reason may be the variety of subjects covered by the growing selection of books. The scope of subjects has broadened to include California history, Indians, birds and even hiking in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Many of the new books were acquired with donations from the California Arboretum Foundation. The Foundation paid for more than 80 new books in the last eight months, including *The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated Encyclopedia of Horticulture* and new editions of *Exotica* and *Tropica*. The county budget alone would not have allowed the Arboretum to buy these new volumes and the collection of non-reference books purchased in the last few years, Ms. DeFato said.

She chooses roughly 150 new books each year based on topics popular among library users or recommended by the Arboretum staff. Ideas also come from the roughly 1,000 book reviews she reads annually. Contacts she makes at meetings and conferences of the Council on Botanic and Horticultural Libraries where she is president keeps Ms.

DeFato aware of new trends.

Because of the increasing numbers of books, the library was expanded into the old Herbarium, which moved to the Research Building. The new shelves are stocked with periodicals that previously over-crowded the library shelves. Ms. DeFato is also reclassifying all the books into the Library of Congress system to accommodate more books.

The old system of classification, unique to the Arboretum library, was too limited and inconsistent, said Ms. DeFato. Because many books about different aspects of a subject were lumped under one general classification number, a reader frequently had to look through the whole lot to find what he wanted.

In the Library of Congress system, there is a better breakdown of

## New reference works in the Plant Science Library

*Impatiens of Africa*

by C. Grey-Wilson

*The Why and How of Home Horticulture*

by D. R. Bienz

*Succulent Flora of Southern Africa*

by Doreen Court

*Spanish Scientists in the New World*

by Iris H. W. Engstrand

*Square-foot Gardening*

by Mel Bartholomew

*Bulbs*

by George Harmon Scott

*Pelargoniums of Southern Africa*

by J. J. A. van der Walt and P. J. Vorster

*Acacias: a Field Guide to the Acacias of Southern Africa*

by Lynette Davidson and Barbara Jeppe

*State Flowers*

by Anne Ophelia Dowden

*Victorian Gardens*

by John Highstone

*The Miniature Palms of Japan*

by Yoshihiro Okita and J. Leland Hollenberg

*Flora of Chiapas, Parts 1 and 2,*

edited

by Dennis E. Breidlove

*Abscission*

by Frederick I. Addicott

*Ferns and Allied Plants, With Special Reference to Tropical America*

by Rolla M. Tryon and

Alice F. Tryon

*Embroidered Gardens*

by Thomasina Beck

*Trees and Shrubs of the Southwestern Deserts, 3rd Edition*

by Lyman Benson and Robert A. Darrow

*Aloe Vera*

by Carol Miller Kent

*Exotica, series 4*

by Alfred Byrd Graf

*Tropica, 2nd edition*

by Alfred Byrd Graf

*North American Horticulture: a Reference Guide, compiled*

by the American Horticultural Society

*Citrus*

by Richard Ray and Lance Walheim

*Western Fruit, Berries and Nuts*

by Lance Walheim and Robert L. Stebbins

*Herbs*

by Norma Jean Lathrop

*Curiosities of the Plant Kingdom*

by Reinhardt Hohn

*Mamillaria: a Collector's Guide*

by John Pillbeam

*Lilies, compiled*

by Patrick M. Syngle

*Roses*

by Richard Ray and Michael MacCaskey

*The Englishwoman's Garden, edited*

by Alvilde Lees — Milne and Rosemary Verey

*Gardening in Small Spaces*

by Jack Kramer

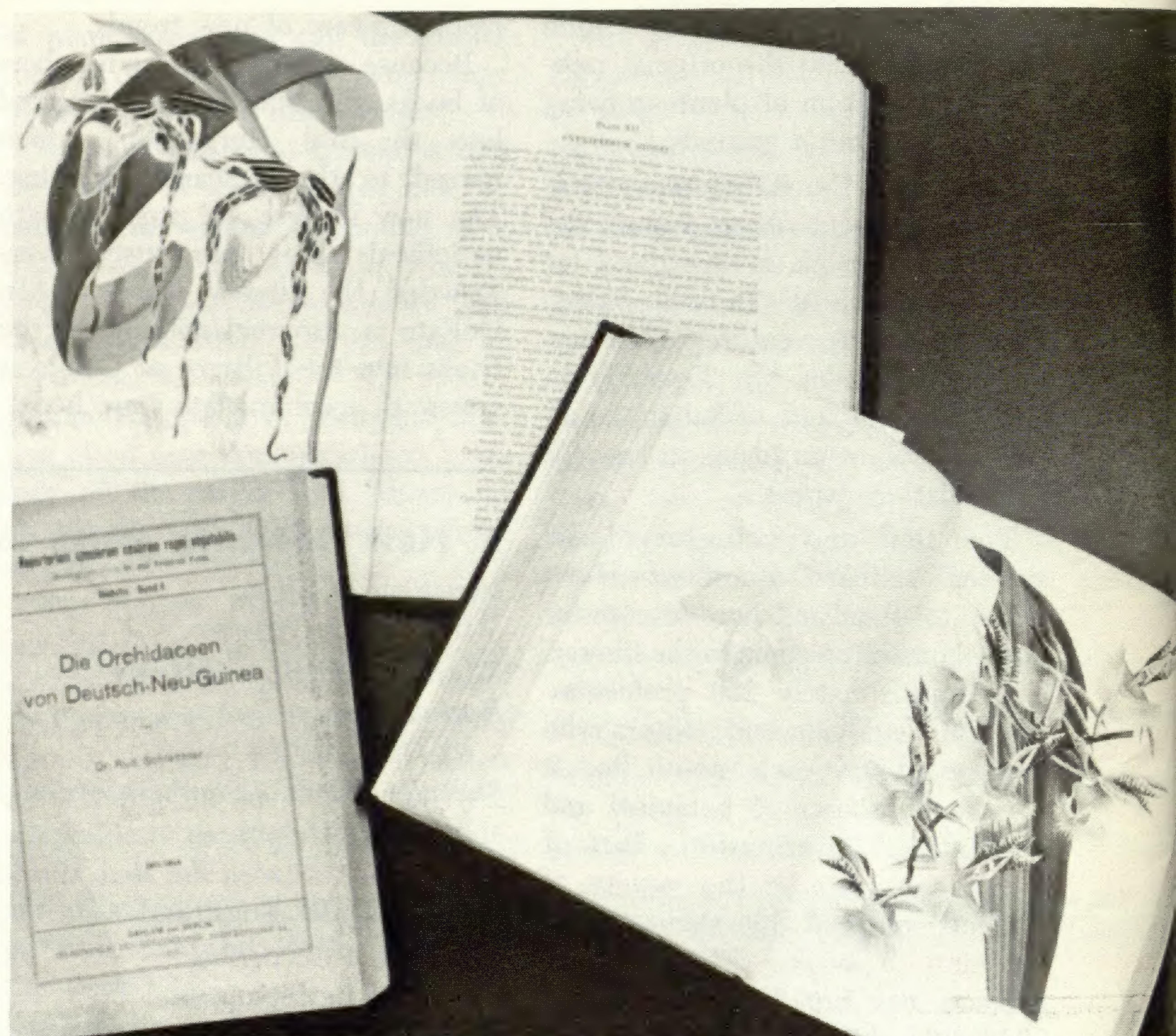
subjects and the books are more easily catalogued and used.

The rare book room, located in the former Herbarium office, will safeguard the valuable collection from theft and allow even more space in the main library.

Authors, illustrators, historians and architects come to the library for specialized information. Home gardeners come to browse through the collection of periodicals that include favorites like *Sunset* magazine, *Smithsonian*, *Historic Preservation*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Horticulture* and, of course, *Garden* magazine.

So whether readers are looking for local history, the complete works of Shakespeare or a rare Australian plant, the Plant Science Library is a valuable source for references and Ms. DeFato an almost inexhaustible reference source.

*Laurie Schenden, a part-time member of the Arboretum staff, received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University.*



Rare books, like those on orchids donated by Mrs. George C. Kennedy, contain useful information for modern botanists.

## LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**MAY 1 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Baldwin Bonanza  
Plant Sale

**MAY 15 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Epiphyllum Show  
Epiphyllum Society

**MAY 21, 22 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Satsuki Azalea Show  
Satsuki Azalea Society

**MAY 28, 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Bonsai Show  
Santa Anita Bonsai Society

**MAY 28, 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Fuchsia Show  
National Fuchsia Society

**JUNE 4, 5 — Saturday 12 to 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Bromeliad Show and Sale  
Southern California Bromeliad Council

**JUNE 11, 12 — Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Show of miniature roses  
San Gabriel Valley Rose and  
Horticultural Society

**JUNE 25, 26 — Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Gladiolus Show  
Southern California Gladiolus Society

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY, JUNE, JULY 1983

**JULY 1, 2, 3 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Cactus and Succulent Show  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
of America  
*All events sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation*

## DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

**MAY 26 — 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Paseo por Descanso, a special walking tour — Reservations necessary

**JUNE 5 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Annual Arts & Crafts Faire  
on the lawn

**JULY 10 — 2:30 p.m.**

Music on the Green  
Hal Towle and His Musical Friends  
of Descanso

**JULY 17 — 2:30 p.m.**

Concert on the Green  
Pasadena City College Swing Band

**JULY 24 — 2:30 p.m.**

Ballet on the Green  
California Repertory Ballet Company

**JULY 31 — 2:30 p.m.**

Excerpts of Tales of Shakespeare  
Charlie and Annie Star  
*All events sponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild*

## SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**MAY 14, 15 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Fiesta de Flores  
Plant Sale

**MAY 21, 22 — Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Rose Show  
South Coast Rose Society

**JUNE 4, 5 — 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Fuchsia Show  
South Coast Branch of National  
Fuchsia Society

**JUNE 11, 12 — Saturday 12 to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale  
South Coast Cactus and Succulent  
Society

**JUNE 19 — 2 p.m.**

Demonstration — miniature terrariums  
of begonias, ferns, gesneriads  
Bee Sutton

**JUNE 26 — 2 p.m.**

Talk — Culture of begonias  
Goldie and Doug Frost  
*All events sponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation*